AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for producing panels of mosaic tesserae having at least a supporting and/or lining sheet on a visible face of said tesserae arranged inside an advancing frame, said device comprising:

feeding means having a reel member configured to store and continuously dispense said supporting and/or lining sheet; and

application means for applying said sheet over said mosaic tesserae, said application means including cutting means configured to cut ~~to size a segment of~~ said sheet into a segment of variable sizes corresponding to the mosaic tesserae and suction drum rotating means to retain at least temporarily, on an outer cylindrical surface thereof, said segment of sheet and to release said segment onto said mosaic tesserae, said suction drum rotating means retaining said segment of sheet by a suction force and releasing said segment of sheet onto the mosaic tesserae by temporarily ceasing the suction force,

wherein said suction drum rotating means includes:

a hollow drum equipped inside with means to create a depression;

a plurality of holes disposed circumferentially and axially to substantially cover the drum surface to produce the suction force to accommodate the segment of variable sizes; and

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

clamping means to block the suction force at least for a section of the drum surface facing the conveyor belt, and for an amplitude to substantially cover the tesserae.

2. (Previously Presented) The device as in claim 1, wherein said cutting means are able to act on said sheet when it is held on the outer surface of said suction drum means.

3. (Previously Presented) The device as in claim 1, wherein said sheet has a face equipped with gluing means and is able to wind on said suction drum means with its face without gluing means and for an angle such as to invert the direction of feed and present its face equipped with gluing means facing towards said frame.

4. (Previously Presented) The device as in claim 1, further comprising at least a pressure roller arranged downstream of said suction drum means, said pressure roller being able to press the segment of said sheet against the surface of said tesserae to achieve stable attachment thereof.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The device as in claim **[[**5**]]**1, wherein said suction drum means includes means able to interrupt the suction at least in the step when the segment of said sheet is released in correspondence with a relative frame containing said tesserae.

7. (Previously Presented) The device as in claim 6, wherein said means able to interrupt the suction comprise mechanical means arranged inside said hollow drum for a zone correlated substantially to the size of said frame.

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1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
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8. (Previously Presented) The device as in claim 3, further comprising means to deliver steam or nebulized water arranged in cooperation with the visible face of said mosaic tesserae and able to deliver a jet against said face to reactivate the glue on said sheet.

9. (Previously Presented) The device as in claim 1, wherein said suction drum means are equipped with an alternate lifting/lowering movement to allow the free transit of the frame after the segment of sheet has been released.

10. (Previously Presented) The device as in claim 1, wherein said supporting and/or lining sheet is applied on the visible face of said tesserae.

11. (Previously Presented) The device as in claim 3, wherein in the event that said sheet to be applied comprises at least two layers, of which a first layer is able to be arranged on said mosaic tesserae and at least a second layer is able to hold the glue and to be removed when said first layer comes into contact with said suction drum, a winding roller is arranged substantially parallel to said suction drum to rewind said second layer after it has been detached from said first layer.

12. (Previously Presented) The device as in claim 1, further comprising means able to heat the visible face of said tesserae arranged upstream of said means to apply said sheet.

13. (Previously Presented) The device as in claim 12, wherein said means able to heat the visible face of said tesserae comprise at least a bar delivering a flow of hot air.

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HENDERSON
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DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
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14. (Previously Presented) The device as in claim 12, wherein said means able to heat the visible face of said tesserae comprise at least a radiating heating device.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of producing panels of mosaic tesserae and in particular to apply at least a supporting and/or lining sheet on a visible face of the mosaic tesserae arranged inside an advancing frame, the method comprising using feeding means and application means for applying said sheet cooperating with the feeding means of said frame, cutting to size a segment of the sheet, retaining at least temporarily, on an outer cylindrical surface of suction drum rotating means, said segment of sheet and releasing said segment onto said frame containing said mosaic tesserae.

16. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 15, wherein said sheet has a face equipped with gluing means, wherein said sheet winds on said suction drum means with its face without gluing means and for an angle such as to invert the direction of feed and to present its face equipped with gluing means facing towards said frame.

17. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 15, further comprising pressing the segment of sheet against the surface of said tesserae to achieve the stable attachment thereof.

18. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 15, further including interrupting the suction at least in the step when the segment of sheet is released in correspondence with a relative frame containing said tesserae.

19. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 15, further including delivering steam or nebulized water, arranged in cooperation with the visible face of said mosaic

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

tesserae, and delivering a jet against said visible face to re-activate the glue arranged on said sheet.

20. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 15, further comprising moving said suction drum means alternately up and down to allow the free transit of the frame after the segment of sheet has been released.

21. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 15, further comprising applying said supporting and/or lining sheet onto the visible face of said tesserae.

22. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 15, further comprising delivering a heating flow onto the visible surface of said tesserae before the sheet is applied thereon.

23. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 22, wherein said heating flow has a temperature of between about 20 and about 40 °C.

24. (Amended) ~~The device of claim 1, wherein the panels of glass mosaic include a plurality of mosaic tesserae arranged in a desired geometric configuration, and wherein the panels include a transparent supporting sheet arranged on the visible face of said mosaic tesserae.~~

A device comprising:

at least one panel having a plurality of mosaic tesserae and a transparent supporting sheet on a visible face of said mosaic tesserae, the mosaic tesserae being arranged in a geometric configuration;

feeding means having a reel member configured to store and continuously dispense said supporting and/or lining sheet; and

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

application means for applying said sheet over said mosaic tesserae, said application means including cutting means configured to cut said sheet into a segment of variable sizes corresponding to the mosaic tesserae and suction drum rotating means to retain at least temporarily, on an outer cylindrical surface thereof, said segment of sheet and to release said segment onto said mosaic tesserae, said suction drum rotating means retaining said segment of sheet by a suction force and releasing said segment of sheet onto the mosaic tesserae by temporarily ceasing the suction force,

wherein said suction drum rotating means includes:

a hollow drum equipped inside with means to create a depression;

a plurality of holes disposed circumferentially and axially to substantially cover the drum surface to produce the suction force to accommodate the segment of variable sizes; and

clamping means to block the suction force at least for a section of the drum surface facing the conveyor belt, and for an amplitude to substantially cover the tesserae.

25. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 24, wherein said supporting sheet has at least a face equipped with gluing means before it is applied onto said mosaic tesserae.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the panels of glass mosaic include a plurality of mosaic tesserae arranged in a desired geometric configuration, and wherein the panels include a transparent supporting sheet arranged on the visible face of said mosaic tesserae.

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HENDERSON
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GARRETT &
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1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
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27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, wherein said supporting sheet has at least a face equipped with gluing means before it is applied onto said mosaic tesserae.

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